

productively growing the involvement the Chamber of Medford/Jackson County in the political process.

I am sorry to see Steve leave, but am pleased that he has been offered this great new opportunity. I thank him deeply for his exemplary service. Mr. Speaker, I know that you and my colleagues join me in wishing Steve and his lovely wife, Mindy, the best of success in this new avenue of service.

FREMONT EDUCATION FOUNDATION
HONORS CHERYL COOK-
KALLIO AND SANDI PANTAGES
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two extraordinary women who were honored by the Fremont Education Foundation in Fremont, California on February 24, 2006 at the Foundation's Annual Excellence in Education Gala. The 2006 honorees, Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Sandi Pantages have provided exemplary contributions to the Fremont Unified School District. Ms. Cook-Kallio is the Excellence in Education Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) Honoree. Ms. Pantages is the Excellence in Education Community Honoree.

Ms. Cook-Kallio is an instructor at Irvington High School in Fremont, California and has been an educator with FUSD since 1979. She has coached and led her "We the People" team of students to win the California State "We The People" Competition. Her students placed fourth in the National "We The People" Competition in 2005. She is popular with her students and has received numerous professional honors, grants and fellowships for her teaching, mentorship, and excellence in the areas of Social Studies, United States History and Government. She is an exemplary mentor, motivator and respected educator.

Ms. Pantages has served as a member of the Fremont Education Foundation Board of Directors since 1992. She has provided immeasurable support to Fremont's students and has contributed greatly to the Fremont community through her 32-year association and employment with Alameda County Library. She developed the Alameda County Library Foundation and served as Manager of the Fremont Main Library and Fremont Libraries prior to her retirement in 2001. She has received numerous awards and recognition from the city of Fremont, Alameda County Library Foundation and was named Alameda County's Outstanding Manager of the Year-General Government in 1999.

Both Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Sandi Pantages have distinguished themselves in their careers and contributions to their community. I congratulate them for the well deserved honor they received from the Fremont Education Foundation.

COMMEMORATING THE 18TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE NAGORNO
KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVE-
MENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise today to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement. On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to correct the historical injustices of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin by reuniting the area with Armenia. Six days later, one million people demonstrated in Yerevan's Opera Square. Unfortunately, the central Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership violently reacted to this peaceful and legal request by engaging in full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh.

In 1991, the people of Nagorno Karabakh voted overwhelmingly to establish an independent republic. However, Azerbaijan continued to perpetrate horrific crimes against Nagorno Karabakh including indiscriminate bombing and artillery attacks. Since 1994, a cease-fire, which has held through today, was reached with help from Russian and European mediators.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a court system, an independent foreign policy, and a commitment to educating its citizens. Just last year, Nagorno Karabakh held its fourth parliamentary elections which were declared to be free and transparent by election observers. I will continue to join with my colleagues in supporting assistance to Nagorno Karabakh, which has a vital role in achieving a peaceful and stable South Caucasus region. I commend the people of Nagorno Karabakh for courageously defending their right to live freely on their ancestral land. On this anniversary, I reiterate my unwavering support to Nagorno Karabakh's freedom, democracy, and economic development.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to other business, I missed three votes on February 28, 2006. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 14, commemorating the lifetime innovations of Thomas Edison; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 15, celebrating the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA basketball championship; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 16, to authorize the President to award a gold medal, on behalf of Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PEACE CORPS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the United States Peace Corps and its more than 7,800 volunteers serving abroad as they celebrate the 45th anniversary of this respected organization. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, impressing upon thousands of young people the need for public service and urging them to become not simply citizens of the U.S., but to become global citizens in pursuit of peace and friendship.

The Peace Corps has carried on that mission. By serving two years overseas, volunteers work cooperatively with local communities, providing expertise and assistance, and empowering people in developing countries. Their service continues President Kennedy's hopes for the Peace Corps to change the lives of countless individuals, families, and communities worldwide.

Today, I would also like to share the story of a volunteer from my district—a young woman from Santa Fe, New Mexico who was committed to the mission of the Peace Corps.

Tessa Marie Horan graduated from the College of Santa Fe in December 2003 and began a career focused on educating children. She was accepted to the Peace Corps in November 2005, and after nine weeks of training, was dispatched to work in Tonga to teach in the Community Education project. The education project is focused on building life skills for Tongan students, and Tessa, who was looking forward to getting to work, had already established a connection with the village youth.

Unfortunately, Tessa's life was cut tragically short this January when she was attacked by a shark in the waters off Tu'anuku. In what had become an afternoon ritual, she was playing outdoors with the village children when they decided to take a swim to cool off.

In the days before her death, Tessa's friends and family recall her saying that she was thoroughly enjoying her experience in Tonga and looking forward to the official start of the teaching program. Tessa was just 24-years old and often quoted Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Those words are very fitting to describe the character of Tessa and the thousands of other Peace Corps volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations again to the Peace Corps on its 45th anniversary, and a personal, thank you to all former and current Peace Corps volunteers from New Mexico. Your selfless dedication and service serves as an example of the American spirit.

IN MEMORY OF NORMAN MIRANDA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 2006, the citizens of East Providence and the state of Rhode Island lost